

# THE COLUMBINE CHORALE

## HANDBOOK FOR MEMBERS

2025-2026

We are pleased to welcome you to the Columbine Chorale. In order to make certain that you are familiar with the rules and regulations of the Chorale, this handbook has been prepared for you. We encourage all members to read the handbook and use it as a handy reference guide. We hope that you share our enthusiasm for this concert season!

**REHEARSALS:** Rehearsals are on Sundays from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at University Park United Methodist Church, 2180 S University Blvd

**PERFORMANCES:** The Chorale generally schedules three formal concert programs with presentations on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Details of the concert season are available in the published schedule of rehearsals and performances found on the Chorale website.

Take a few moments to enter these most important dates into your calendars! Remember, your attendance at the two rehearsals prior to each of the concerts is required. (See "Attendance" below.)

**ATTENDANCE:** Chorale members must commit to participating in all concerts of the current season – this includes two performances each of the Winter concert, the February concert and the May concert plus any additional joint rehearsals and concerts done in collaboration with other groups. The two rehearsals prior to each of the concerts are required. Any exception must be approved in advance by the conductor.

Rehearsal attendance is one of the most important factors in the ultimate success of any choral organization. Simply put, absences impede progress. The reality, however, is that most singers will find that they must miss an occasional rehearsal due to an unavoidable conflict. It is expected that singers will make every reasonable effort to avoid absences while making rehearsal attendance a high priority. Please prioritize the Chorale's schedule when making plans.

A Future Absences sheet will be available at every rehearsal. Members are required to record a future absence from any performance or rehearsal. Other absences from a rehearsal or concert must be recorded as soon as the necessity to be absent is known.

Members will be allowed no more than one unnotified absence per year. An absence unreported by telephone or unrecorded on the Future Absence sheet is unacceptable unless a medical emergency has made the notification impossible. Upon the second such absence, a member may be asked not to sing with the Chorale at the discretion of the Conductor. This decision may be appealed to the Board, in which case the Board's decision will be final.

**CHORALE DUES:** The Chorale Board of Directors has established membership dues of \$150 per year. You may elect to pay \$125 on or before October 1, 2025, which will satisfy your obligation for the year. Dues for members joining in January are \$60; joining in March are \$30. **You may pay by major credit card, cash or check or by using PayPal on the website.** [www.columbinechorale.org](http://www.columbinechorale.org) Click on the padlock icon to reach the member's only area.

**WAIVER OF DUES:** If any member is unable to meet the dues obligation detailed above, he or she should communicate privately with the board president or the treasurer, and this financial obligation will

be waived. Confidentiality is absolutely assured and an explanation of the circumstances is not required. Financial need will not prevent your participation in the Chorale.

That having been said, members asking for a waiver of dues are encouraged to take the obligation to sell tickets to concerts very seriously. This is a way to contribute to the financial health of the Chorale without having to pay out-of-pocket expenses.

**TICKET SALES:** The Chorale depends heavily on ticket sales by members to generate audiences. This year we are once again offering an exciting and varied concert program, which should make it easy to attract audience members. Individual tickets for the Chorale's concerts will be \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors-60 and a reduced price of \$10 for students. The specific ticket obligation for each member will be \$100 for the year. This is for the whole season and can be fulfilled by selling as few as 4 adult tickets or 5 senior tickets.

**PAYMENT ENVELOPES:** All payments to the Chorale, whether by check or in cash, must be placed in one of the special payment envelopes provided at rehearsals. Simply fill out the front. This will simplify data entry for the treasurer and ensure your payment is credited properly.

NAME _____	DATE _____
Cash \$ _____	Credit Card \$ _____
Check \$ _____	
Total \$ _____	Amount _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL DUES _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> MONTHLY DUES: S O N D J F M A M _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> TICKET SALES Individual tickets _____ Season tickets _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> TAPES/CDS _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____	_____


**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** Periodically, financial statements will be prepared by the treasurer and distributed to members. The statement will show the member's total financial obligation, how much has been paid, and the balance due, if any. This is done as a courtesy to let you know exactly where you stand financially with the Chorale. Questions or concerns about the statement should be directed to the treasurer via email.

**INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS:** The Columbine Chorale is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). If you itemize deductions, please remember that most expenses incurred while on Chorale business are deductible. This would include dues, travel (mileage) to and from Chorale rehearsals and performances, the cost and cleaning of the Chorale uniform if it is used exclusively for Chorale performances, and for meals and housing when out of town on a Chorale function.

**TICKETS & WILL-CALL ENVELOPES:** Tickets will be for sale before rehearsal two weeks in advance of the concert. Paper tickets will be available for purchase only. If you sell tickets in advance of the concert, please pay for the ticket at rehearsal then either place the ticket in a will call envelope for the patron to pick up at the box office or deliver the ticket to the patron yourself. Tickets are always available for purchase at the door. All tickets may also be purchased online

Tickets left in will call the day of the concert must be paid for either by the singer or patron. Please make sure your friends and family understand this. The envelope will look something like this:

## WILL CALL TICKETS



Tickets held for \_\_\_\_\_

Last First

# Tickets: **Single** adult (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_ Senior (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_ Student (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_

**Season** adult (\$45) \_\_\_\_\_ Senior (\$35) \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-paid tickets.

Amount owed \_\_\_\_\_.

Payment credited to (Chorale member) \_\_\_\_\_

**WEB SITE:** The Chorale's updated website ([columbinechorale.org](http://columbinechorale.org)) has a wealth of information both for the general public and for members. To access the "Members Only" page, click on the padlock icon on the right side of the toolbar. Contents of the site include late-breaking news, membership rosters, the updated rehearsal schedule, matters, copies of the by-laws and much, much more (and not all of it deadly serious, either!). This page is password protected and this is changed annually before the first rehearsal. Check the front of your music envelope for the current password.

Please e-mail [mjstookes@columbinechorale.org](mailto:mjstookes@columbinechorale.org) with any concerns.

**KING SOOPERS LOYALTY PROGRAM:** A major fund-raising activity of the Chorale is the linking of King Soopers loyalty cards to the Chorale. Please contact Margaret Stookesberry for instructions for linking your account. The chorale receives a quarterly check for a percentage of the amount spent on groceries.

**MEMBER DONATIONS:** Every year Chorale members donate total amounts totaling from \$25 to \$1,500 above and beyond the dues and ticket obligations. Some donate with no stipulations attached, but the Chorale has a special program wherein a member can purchase a specific piece of music for the Chorale's library and in return can have the piece marked with a dedication of the donor's choosing. Note is made in the concert program on the occasion of the first performance of the work. Check the "Conductor's Wishlist" under "Donate" on the website to see the items currently available.

Have you thought about making the Chorale a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or your will? Both of these methods of leaving a lasting legacy to the Chorale would be easy to implement. Many of us have small life insurance policies issued through banks, professional organizations or other such entities and it would take only minutes to have the Chorale listed as a beneficiary. Bequeathing amounts less than the full value of policies is certainly a possibility. Think about it!

Contributions may also be made as part of an IRA required distribution. Please contact the treasurer for details.

The Chorale is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3) and all donations are potentially tax deductible. In addition the Chorale is registered with the Office of the Colorado Secretary of State, which can be reached at 303-894-2200 or [www.sos.state.co.us](http://www.sos.state.co.us) and which can provide copies of registration and financial documents. Refer to registration number 20021346525.

REGISTRATION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION. The Chorale's EIN is 84-1063962.

**PERFORMANCE ATTIRE:** Sopranos and altos in the Chorale are required to wear dress garments that are all black (no decoration of any other color permitted). Jeans, leggings or tights are not permitted. In addition, women wear flesh-colored hose and comfortable closed-toe black shoes (no high heels and no sandals, please), small non-dangling earrings, and a medium-length string of pearls. For some concerts, there may be different suggestions for colored embellishments but the default is always pearls and small pearl post earrings.

Basses & Tenors wear a black tuxedo with a black bow tie and cummerbund, and black shoes and socks. Lady tenors may choose to wear the same attire as sopranos and altos or a tuxedo.

## **CONCERT RECORDING**

The chorale may arrange for each concert to be professionally recorded for archival purposes. Recordings shall be made available exclusively to performers and conductors involved in the concert. A fee may be assessed to recover the costs of recording and duplication.

**REHEARSAL AND CONCERT ETIQUETTE:** It is very important that the following rules be observed:

- Please do not wear perfume, cologne or after-shave lotion to either a rehearsal or a performance. Some people are very sensitive or even allergic to it.
- It is most inconsiderate of members to be late for a rehearsal or a concert call. Please be prompt.
- The professional appearance of the Chorale in concert is very important. A concert begins with the first appearance of the Chorale on stage. Walk on stage in a dignified manner, take your place on the risers, and face the audience with a pleasant look on your face. No talking with your neighbor, please! No waving to friends or family in the audience! Even though you may feel invisible on stage as one of a fairly large group of singers, you aren't.
- The music folder is carried in the left hand, cupped, not dangling, and is opened only after the Conductor has turned to face the Chorale from the podium. The music folder is returned to your side in the left hand at the end of a music set when the director turns to bow.
- When the group leaves the stage, remain facing forward until the person exiting immediately before you turns to leave. Then rotate and follow. Do not turn to leave before you actually start to move. If you are standing on the centerline of the group and the person on the "wrong" side of you exits, simply turn to follow that person. You can get back in line backstage.
- During rehearsals, please refrain from unnecessary conversation when the Conductor stops the singing and between numbers. Chatter in the ranks wastes a tremendous amount of rehearsal time, breaks concentration, and is most annoying. **Questions regarding music should be addressed to the section leader who can clarify issues with the director at an appropriate time.**
- One person coming with a cold to a rehearsal or a concert can potentially decimate a section. If you have a cold but are still ambulatory, we would love to see you at a rehearsal, but please sit off to the side or in the rear of the rehearsal hall. If a concert is involved, use your best judgment as to the potential for infecting others. Obviously if you have something contagious that is a step above a cold, like the flu, we don't really want to see your shining face at all. Get well first!
- In the spirit of choral unity, singers are expected to happily acquiesce to the seemingly trivial, arbitrary and petty wishes of the Conductor. All musical considerations, such as part assignments, rehearsal and concert seating, solos, literature and concert programming are the right and responsibility of the Conductor. While comments, suggestions or requests are welcome, due to constraints on rehearsal time, written communication would be appreciated. Requests for solos should be made early. Serious concerns or requests should be communicated directly and privately to the Conductor. Every effort will be made to

make accommodations in an equitable manner, although group musical considerations will always take precedence.

Matters of concern on other topics can be addressed to members of the Board.

- Have fun!

8/1/25